



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Theresa Gartland, 323-383-7588
tgartland@urbancompass.org**

NEW URBAN COMPASS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NAMED

(Los Angeles, CA 09/12/2011) Theresa Gartland has taken the role of Executive Director with Urban Compass, a non-profit organization that strives to reach underserved urban youth and guide them toward a hopeful future by inspiring them to achieve their dreams through education, mentoring and enrichment activities.



Prior to becoming Executive Director, Gartland served as the organization's Program and Curriculum Director for three years, working closely with students, building after-school and summer programs, and interacting with donors and board members to help Urban Compass grow.

"Urban Compass has a bright future and I am grateful to be part of the expansion and evolution that is on the horizon," said Gartland. "I will take Urban Compass to the next level; I look forward to seeing our students through elementary school, middle school, high school and beyond."

A native of the Washington D.C. area, and graduate of Villanova University, Gartland moved to Los Angeles to attend Loyola Marymount University where she received a Master's degree in Elementary Education. She participated in the Response-Ability Volunteer teacher program while earning her degree and lived in a faith-based community in South Los Angeles. She brings to Urban Compass a solid foundation in education through her hands-on classroom experience and in-depth understanding of curriculum development. As a 2nd grade teacher in South Los Angeles, she learned and experienced first hand the needs of youth from the surrounding community.

"I feel blessed to be part of a program that does such important and tangible work in our community," Gartland remarked.

Urban Compass is a nonprofit organization in Watts whose main goal is to keep children in school and out of gangs. Urban Compass provides a safe, welcoming, and innovative environment that challenges youth to envision and navigate a course for a rewarding future characterized by achievement, independent thought, and social responsibility through education, mentoring, and play.

For more information on Urban Compass, visit www.urbancompass.org.